

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 25, 2002, applicants elect the claims of Group I for initial prosecution in this application. Election of Group I is without traverse. Election is without prejudice to applicant's right to prosecute the non-elected subsequent matter in a subject patent application.

Applicants further elect the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1. Election is without traverse. Election is without prejudice to applicants' right to prosecute claims directed to the non-elected nucleic acid sequences in a subsequent patent application. Applicants traverse the Examiner's requirement to elect a single nucleic acid sequence for prosecution in this application because each of the nucleic acid sequences currently set forth in the claims (SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9) each encode the same type of protein, (secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase), and have similar nucleic acid sequences. Thus, it does not impose an undue burden on the Office to search each of the foregoing nucleic acid sequences.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: 1/23/03



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE JANUARY 23, 2003

In the Claims:

Claims 11-17 and 22-23 have been canceled.

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